

SAVE ENERGY, YOUR MONEY, YOUR PLANET

With crude oil prices fluctuating, global warming concerns, and our Midwest winter in full swing, it's time to look at energy-saving ideas!

1. **Use CFL light bulbs** (compact fluorescents). They last 10X longer, use 75-80% less energy, save \$\$\$, and don't burn your fingers!

Order CFLs using the P2 website link - Under "Recent News":

http://smad-ext.grc.nasa.gov/emo/pub/P2/recent-news_need.htm



Derek Marshall Lighting

2. **Your largest energy expense** (after heating and cooling) is **water heating** – about 14% of your utility bill. Here are ways to save:
 - Take more showers than baths. Baths use the most hot water in an average household. (It takes 15-25 gallons for a bath & <10 gallons for a 5-minute shower.)
 - Install faucet aerators & low-flow showerheads – cuts consumption in half.
 - Repair leaky faucets and showerheads.
 - If your water heater feels warm to the touch, add an insulation blanket. Insulate the tank and pipes, but be careful not to cover the thermostat(s).
 - Lower the thermostat(s) on your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. If your dishwasher preheats water, no need to set the thermostat over 115.
3. After water heating, **your largest energy expense** is your **refrigerator!** Here are ways to save:
 - Place your frig away from hot spots, like a stove, a heating register, or the sun.
 - Lower the temperature in your kitchen in winter. But don't increase A/C cooling in the summer. The savings from your frig will not offset the energy used by the A/C.
 - Set frig thermostat at 36-42 F and freezer at 0-8 F.
 - Removing moisture increases energy use: Moisture is caused by increased door openings, food that is not covered. Use anti-sweat heaters only when necessary.
 - Replace gasket seal if a dollar bill can be pulled from a closed frig door.
 - Remove dust from condenser coils 2X a year, and defrost manual defrost frig's.

4. Here are some general **energy tips**:

- Turn off lights when they're not in use; use daylight whenever possible.
- **Cook in your toaster oven, microwave, or broiler oven; they use half the energy of a regular oven.**
- When using clothes washers or dishwashers, only do full loads.
- **Hang clothes to dry when you can.**
- Make sure that heat vents aren't covered by rugs or furniture.
- **Keep your room temperature at 78 F in summer and 68-70 (or lower) in winter.** Weather-strip and caulk around windows and doors.
- **Make sure your attic insulation is adequate.** Blanket insulation should be at least 10 inches thick; loose fill should be 8-14 inches thick.
- **Purchase high efficiency model refrigerators, freezers, clothes washers, dryers, ranges, ovens and dishwashers.** You might pay a bit more up front, but your investment will pay for itself in energy savings.
- *Many appliances continue to use a small amount of power when they are switched "off," but still plugged in.* These "phantom loads" happen in most electric appliances such as VCRs, televisions, stereos, computers, and kitchen appliances. Better to unplug the appliance or use a power strip and shut off the strip to cut the power to the appliance.

5. Calculate your electricity usage and costs.

Check out the spreadsheet link on the P2 Website - Under "Recent News":
http://smad-ext.grc.nasa.gov/emo/pub/P2/recent-news_need.htm

6. **Buy EnergyStar products**: Home electronics, lighting, appliances, more.
Here's a link to search for products near you:
<http://www.newdream.org/consumer/storelocator.html>

To save even more energy, check "No" for on-line purchasing. This saves shipping costs to you and fuel for transportation.

7. **Buy an alternative fuel car or hybrid**. Some of these cars are now available on the used car market, including the Honda Insight and the Toyota Prius. More information on alternative vehicles is coming soon!